

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-00552; FRL-6027-9]

EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee; Notice of Public Meeting**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA-USDA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee (TRAC) has been established as a subcommittee under the auspices of the EPA National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The TRAC is in response to Vice President Gore's request for EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to work together to ensure the smooth implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

DATES: The final TRAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 1998, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, September 16, 1998, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. EPA and USDA are considering options for extending this meeting, such as an evening session or an afternoon session on September 15th.

ADDRESSES: The TRAC meeting will be held at the Ramada Conference and Exhibition Center, 8500 Annapolis Rd., New Carrollton, MD [just off Interstate 495 at Exit 20B and 1/4 mile from the New Carrollton METRO station], telephone: (301) 459-6700.

The official record is available in the Docket for inspection during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays at the Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 101, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, telephone: (703) 305-5805.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Margie Fehrenbach or Linda Murray, Office of Pesticide Programs (7501C), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Crystal Mall #2, Rm. 1119, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA; telephone: (703) 305-7090; e-mail: fehrenbach.margie@epamail.epa.gov or murray.linda@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FQPA, Pub. L. 104-170, was passed in 1996, this new law strengthens the nation's system for regulating pesticides on food. The TRAC will be asked to provide policy guidance on sound science, ways to increase transparency in decisionmaking, strategies for a reasonable transition for agriculture,

and ways to enhance consultations with stakeholders, as pesticide tolerances are reassessed, including those for organophosphates.

The TRAC is co-chaired by EPA Deputy Administrator Fred Hansen and USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger. The TRAC is composed of experts that include farmers, environmentalists, public health officials, pediatric experts, pesticide companies, food processors and distributors, public interest groups, academicians, and tribal, State, and local governments.

The TRAC meetings are open to the public under section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463. Outside statements by observers are welcome. Oral statements will be limited to 2-3 minutes by only one person per organization. Any person who wishes to file a written statement may do so before or after a TRAC meeting. These statements will become part of the official record and will be provided to the TRAC members. The official record will be available for public inspection at the address in "Addresses" at the beginning of this document.

Agendas and other background information specific to these meetings, as well as information from the previous meetings, can be obtained on the EPA TRAC World Wide Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/trac>); or from the Docket (Rm 101, Crystal Mall #2, Arlington, VA; telephone (703) 305-5805; or by calling (703) 305-7090.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agriculture, Chemicals, Foods, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: August 26, 1998.

Marcia E. Mulkey,

Director, Office of Pesticide Programs.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-34141; FRL-6030-2]

Increasing Transparency for the Tolerance Reassessment Process; Availability of Preliminary Risk Assessments for Seven Organophosphates**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the availability of documents which were

developed as part of EPA's process for making reregistration eligibility decisions for the organophosphate pesticides and for tolerance reassessments consistent with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). These documents are the preliminary risk assessments and related documents for cadusafos, dimethoate, ethoprop, fenthion, sulfotepp, temephos, and tribuphos. This Notice also starts a 60-day public comment period for the preliminary risk assessments.

Comments are to be limited to issues directly associated with the seven organophosphates that have risk assessments placed in the docket and should be limited to issues raised in those documents. By allowing access and opportunity for comment on the preliminary risk assessments, EPA is seeking to strengthen stakeholder involvement and help ensure the Agency's decisions under FQPA are transparent, and based on the best available information. The tolerance reassessment process will ensure that the U.S. continues to have the safest and most abundant food supply. The Agency cautions that these risk assessments are preliminary assessments only and that further refinements of the risk assessments will be appropriate for some, if not all, of these seven pesticides. These documents reflect only the work and analysis conducted as of the time they were produced and it is appropriate that, as new information becomes available and/or additional analyses are performed, the conclusions they contain may change.

DATES: Written comments on these assessments must be submitted by November 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail, submit written comments in triplicate to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, deliver comments to: Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit II. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI.